

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



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## Task Force Vice Chair Steps Down

**Recently there have been many changes in the makeup of the Task Force. Here's an update on who has retired and which new appointees have been named.**

She may not be going by "Madame Chair" these days, but she'll always be the Queen of Trash. Ginger Bremberg, recently retired from the Glendale City Council, has officially passed the gavel as Vice Chair of the Integrated Waste Management Task Force. Also referred to as the Garbage Lady, another title she wears proudly, Bremberg is well-known for protecting the interests of local government in matters of solid waste disposal. "When you see a garbage truck, do you wave and thank them for picking up what you don't want?" she asks. "I do."

Bremberg's interest in solid waste issues goes back to her first term as City Councilwoman from 1981 to 1993. A neighbor who owned and operated a hauling business asked her to serve on the California Waste Management Board. She replied that she wasn't qualified, but her neighbor knew better. In 1985, Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the position. Unfortunately, AB 939 eliminated local government representation (her position) from the State Waste Board in 1990. However, in 1991, she was appointed to the Task Force by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors representing the public sector and shortly thereafter she was elected to the Chairwoman position. She returned to the Glendale City Council in 1997 when she "saw something she didn't approve of as

a citizen, and the voters of Glendale agreed." But that's another story.

When asked if she enjoyed the time she's spent serving as Chairwoman of the Task Force, Ginger replies, "Well, you don't like it or not like it. It's a matter of presiding, moving the meeting along, giving everyone an opportunity to speak, and in some cases demanding they express an opinion so there's consensus. It's not a glory job, it's whether you are tough enough to preside and make meetings move along." Ginger Bremberg is definitely tough enough!



*Ginger Bremberg*

While she may not admit to liking the job, she has words of praise for her fellow Task Force members. "It wasn't difficult," she says, "because the folks on the Task Force are just outstanding. They recognize the worthiness of their opponent's point of view. There have been instances where they were clearly divided and no one walked out with a bloody nose or a bruised ego. Some of them have never missed a meeting."

The diminutive 75-year-old ran the meetings with a good dose of humor and lots of plain, direct talk. "I've

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### Reaching Out . . . Welcome to *Inside Solid Waste*

If you have an innovative program or information that would be of interest to others in Los Angeles County, or an issue or concern you would like addressed, please submit an article to *Inside Solid Waste*. Articles should be submitted to the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force at P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460, Attention: **Emily Puga-Aragon**. For more information, call (626) 458-3579, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. *Inside Solid Waste* is now available on line at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com). Check it out!



shopping carts were recycled. The program only pertains to metal shopping carts, and those whose owner is not clearly designated. State law mandates that carts have:

- A sign identifying the owner of the cart or the retailer, or both, affixed to all carts;
- A valid telephone number or return address;
- A sign stating that unauthorized removal from the premises or unauthorized possession of a cart is a violation of State law.

“Our program is unique because any metal shopping cart that does not meet the State law is separated from the non-metal carts and given to the City’s solid waste hauler for recycling. Recycling the metal shopping carts further reduces the amount of solid waste dumped in landfills, and helps the City meet its recycling goals,” says Mary.

She is especially proud of this program because it displays the City’s ground-breaking efforts toward diversion. Alhambra residents can also look forward to an automated curbside recycling program beginning this summer. And keep your eyes and ears open for an upcoming advertising campaign to raise recycling awareness in the non-English speaking community.

Aside from using her creative abilities for the City of Alhambra’s waste programs, Mary enjoys spending time making scrapbooks for her two sons. Who knows? Mary may want to consider doing free-lance work with all of the talent she has to offer. Congratulations to Mary and the City of Alhambra on a job well done!

**F**rom Agoura to Whittier, cities all over the County provide recycling programs to their residents and commercial concerns. These services include curbside recycling, hazardous waste collection events, and more. It seems as though cities have tried everything to reduce, reuse, and recycle, but the City of Alhambra has gone a step further in their diversion efforts.

Meet Mary Chavez, the Assistant to the City Manager for Alhambra. Among her many duties, Mary helped launch one of the City’s newest and most innovative programs.

In October 2000, Alhambra began a shopping cart recycling program. This program offers 100 percent diversion and during the first six months, 11.5 tons of

## Task Force Vice Chair Steps Down *continued from page 1*

got my pet peeves,” she confesses, “like politicians insisting that their landfills be closed and sending their trash to everybody else. People should take responsibility for their own waste.”

For the time being, Ginger and her husband plan to spend three months at their lake cottage in Minnesota. “I’ll probably read a couple hundred books, and play with my trash truck,” a gift from the City of Glendale Sanitation Department painted in the city’s official colors. But that doesn’t mean we won’t be hearing from Ginger. She will continue to serve on the Task Force a while longer. “I’m not going to lose my interest,” she says. “If I see something I don’t like, I’ll go down to the meeting and say so. They expect that. I can’t disappoint

them. At my age I can afford to be cranky.”

Task Force members express sincere gratitude for Ginger’s strong leadership over the years, noting especially the skillful way she handled controversial issues and brought together diverse groups of people. Most recently, Ginger led the Task Force in conducting special meetings on the deficiencies of the State Disposal Reporting System and other AB 939 issues. The Task Force’s recommendations to address these issues were the catalyst for some positive changes in State law and at the Waste Board. There will be an abiding appreciation for Ginger’s way of advocating for local government interests while always taking a balanced approach to the issues.

# Recent Changes In Task Force Membership

Now that Ginger has decided to step down as Chairwoman of the Task Force, Margaret Clark of the Rosemead City Council will be taking her place. Let's pass the gavel on to Margaret as we say "thank you" to Ginger for the strong leadership she brought to the Task Force.



## Hanson Joins Bremberg in Retirement



*Task Force members wish Richard and Ginger a Happy Retirement. Pictured L - R are Richard Hanson, Al Avoian, Ginger Bremberg, (standing) Mike Mohajer, and Clarence Gieck.*

**R**ichard Hanson, Task Force member since 1989, retired May 7, 2001, as Chief of the Solid Waste Management Program for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Richard served the task force diligently representing the interests of the local enforcement agency and advocating for as much local control as possible. He will be succeeded on the Task Force by Virginia Maloles, whom he recommends highly.

Now that he's retired, Richard plans to pursue his hobbies which include paleoclimatology (the study of ancient climates through fossil research) and writing. Look for his articles in the ***California Environmental Health Quarterly*** and don't be surprised if you see him speaking before the California Integrated Waste Management Board about issues near and dear to his heart.

The Task Force wishes Richard nothing but the best and thanks him for his many years of exemplary service.

## New Kids on the Block



**Margaret Clark**

Governments, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are just a few. She has not only been a member of these groups, but has actively participated in the subcommittees and held numerous board positions within these political bodies.

Her involvement in intergovernmental organizations does not end there. Margaret is currently a City Council member for the City of Rosemead and in the past has served as Mayor, Planning Commissioner, and Traffic Commissioner. We are confident her future endeavors with the Task Force will be successful.

**M**argaret Clark, an experienced voice in local government and environmental issues, was unanimously voted by Task Force members to be the new Vice Chair. Margaret welcomes the new assignment and will add it to the long list of organizations she has served: the National League of Cities, League of California Cities, Southern California Association of



**Jim Noyes**

With the recent retirement of Harry Stone, the Integrated Waste Management Task Force position of chairperson passes to the newly appointed Director of Public Works for Los Angeles County, James A. Noyes.

# What's Up?

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUPS** are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For further information, residents are invited to call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1-888-CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about **Hazmobile** events call **1-800-98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

July 14	<b>Downey</b> - Downey High School South Parking Lot at Firestone Blvd. and Brookshire Ave. 11040 Brookshire Ave.
July 14 - 15 <b>Hazmobile</b>	<b>Westchester</b> - Westchester High School corner of Manchester Ave. and Park Hill Dr.
July 21	<b>Carson</b> - Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, West Maintenance Building 24501 S. Figueroa St.
July 26 - 28 <b>Hazmobile</b>	<b>Sunland</b> - K-Mart Parking Lot Foothill Blvd. and Langmuir Ave.
July 28	<b>San Dimas</b> - San Dimas Canyon Road Center, Corner of Bonita Ave. and San Dimas Canyon Rd.
August 4	<b>Whittier</b> - Rio Hondo College Parking Lot "A", 3600 Workman Mill Rd.
August 4 - 5 <b>Hazmobile</b>	<b>Westwood</b> - UCLA Parking Lot #31 at Wayburn Pl., enter from Veteran Ave. and Wayburn Ave.
August 11	<b>Norwalk</b> - Cerritos College 11110 Alondra Blvd.
August 18	<b>Arcadia</b> - Los Angeles Turf Club 285 W. Huntington Dr.
August 18 <b>9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Altadena</b> - LACDPW Fleet Maintenance Yard Figueroa Dr. and Gradeur Ave. Enter from Figueroa Dr.
July 23 - 25 <b>Hazmobile</b>	<b>Hollywood</b> - First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Parking Lot at Gower St. and Franklin Ave., enter on Gower St.
August 25	<b>Glendora</b> - Citrus College Stadium Parking Lot, Barranca Ave. just north of Alostia Ave.

## Baldwin Park Offers Choices

The City of Baldwin Park unveiled its new automated refuse and recycling program. Residents now have the capability to recycle a wide range of materials generated at home. The City of Baldwin Park offers an innovative and cost-effective solution to encourage residents to participate in recycling. By properly recycling unwanted materials, less waste accumulates in the trash receptacle. Residents can choose between three trash container sizes: 35-gallon, 64-gallon, or 96-gallon.

Additional materials can also be recycled to assist in the City's diversion efforts. Every household received one bin for green waste and one for commingled recyclable materials. Grass clippings, brush, leaves, sawdust, tree trimmings, and shrubbery can be placed in the green waste bins. The recycling bins can be used for aluminum and steel cans, all colors of glass bottles, plastic containers numbered 1 through 7, newspaper, magazines, junk mail, paper, cardboard, cereal boxes, and telephone books.

Baldwin Park encourages residents to be environmentally responsible to the City and its surroundings. If you would like additional information on the City of Baldwin Park's variable can rate and recycling practices, contact Wendy Harris at (626)-960-3993.

### TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

**July 19 - Room C**  
**August 16**  
**September 20**

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room B unless otherwise noted.

For information call Elizabeth Mendez at (626) 458-3565. M -Th, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



# Santa Clarita's Waste Reduction Efforts

The City of Santa Clarita is dedicated to increasing its diversion rate and decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfills. The City Council illustrated its commitment to going above and beyond by setting a goal to divert 75 percent of the City's waste.

Recent negotiations with the City's existing waste haulers resulted in the addition of several enhanced programs and services, which are instrumental in the efforts to change behavior and encourage recycling. The City has entered the final stages of developing new state-of-the-art contracts with its haulers. The most significant service enhancements obtained through the contract renegotiations include:

- (1) Providing single-stream, commingled recycling containers for single family homes;
- (2) Enhanced green waste recycling program which accepts wood and lumber;
- (3) Required recycling programs for multi-family residences;
- (4) Enhanced education programs including the production of informative videos, presentations to schools and multi-family residences, and radio and television ads;
- (5) A new business program that encourages

recycling by lowering the rate for commercial customers who recycle half the waste they generate. Those that do not will pay a higher rate. If a customer implements waste reduction programs that reduce the amount of waste they generate without recycling half of their waste, then they can file for an exemption which will require an initial waste assessment along with up to one additional waste assessment per year;

- (6) Construction of a Materials Recovery Facility in or near the City within four years of implementing the revised franchise agreement; and
- (7) The City also supplements the service enhancements by developing and distributing informative brochures, encouraging residents and businesses to take pollution prevention pledges, conducting special school programs for all ages, attending and hosting community events for residents and businesses, and active marketing and promotional efforts.

One of these supplemental programs is an annual event called the River Rally, where City employees work with community volunteers to clean up the Santa Clara River.

Through these efforts, the City has created a partnership with its residents that benefits everyone in the community of Santa Clarita.



*City employees prepare buttons for children in the Environmental Services Division-sponsored River Rally event. Over 700 volunteers were present to help clean the Santa Clara River, which runs throughout the City.*



*Jill Fosselman, the Environmental Services Manager, presents a prize to a student for his essay in the "Preserving Our Quality of Life: A Clean, Green Santa Clarita" essay contest.*

# Diamond Bar Diversion

The City of Diamond Bar enacted a solid waste ordinance for residential and non-residential sectors. The residential service provider began its automated cart system in November 2000 and the following month the non-residential service providers began diversion programs. The ordinance featured the following provisions:

- Establishment of an automated system that requires separation of waste into refuse, recycling, and yard waste components by all residents;
- Creation of incentives that reward conservation, including pay-as-you-throw rates for residential and commercial customers, and rate reductions for waste prevention;
- Provision of mandatory recycling service for all multi-family residential complexes as well as for all other generating sectors.



The residential program has had great success and participation. As of December 1, 2000, the single-family residential (SFR) program was fully implemented. Preliminary figures indicate that SFR diversion has increased from an average of about 240 tons per month to 935 tons in December 2000 (from about 10 percent to 40 percent diversion in one month!). The introduction of green waste collection has accounted for half of this increase. Residential

activities include a home composting program, Christmas tree recycling, HHW collection, residential recyclables curbside collection, used oil and used oil filter curbside collection, public education and outreach services.

By performing a new base year for 2000, the City has documented a total of 27,872 tons of diversion in the non-residential sector. Most of this was due to permitted recyclers, in-house recycling efforts, and the efforts of generators to reduce their waste through preventative programs. Services contributing to non-residential diversion include corporate recycling programs, expansion of recycling activities, construction and demolition debris recycling, and waste prevention.

The City identified the diversion through waste audits. Individuals and businesses are led through a series of questions to determine their level of waste reduction.

The waste audits also help to recognize star individuals and companies for the Recycler of the Year Award.

As of 2000, Diamond Bar has a diversion rate of about 38 percent, up from less than 10 percent in 1990. By the close of 2001, it is expected to be above 50 percent. To do this, the City has taken the initiative to prioritize its efforts toward waste reduction and anticipates an increase in diversion and awareness throughout the community.

## SANTA MONICA RECYCLES ELECTRONICS

Santa Monica continues to offer an electronics recycling drop-off program. Computers, keyboards, mice, monitors, printers, office equipment, and small appliances may be dropped off at Santa Monica's Transfer Station and at the Santa Monica Community Recycling Center. The opportunity to recycle, reduce, and reuse these materials in partnership with the non-profit Technology Training Foundation of America (TTFA), and recycler HMR, helps Santa Monica divert electronic waste from the waste stream and furthers the re-use of these materials. Through TTFA's program, Pentium-quality computers will be refurbished and donated to local schools. Non re-usable electronics will be shipped

overseas for further breakdown and re-use. None will enter the landfills. With 19 tons to date, this proves to be a very exciting new program for the City of Santa Monica and all cities within Los Angeles County.

Santa Monica Transfer Station  
2401 Delaware Ave.  
Open Mon - Sat 7:00 to 3:00  
(310) 829-7323

Santa Monica Community Recycling Center  
241 Delaware Ave.  
Open Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:00, Sat 8:00 to 2:00  
(310) 453-9677



**Question:** Are electronics considered hazardous waste? If so, how can I dispose of them properly?

**Answer:** The term “e-waste” is loosely applied to consumer and business electronic equipment like computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, and fax machines that are near or at the end of a useful life.

There is no clear definition for e-waste; for instance whether or not items like microwave ovens and other similar “appliances” should be grouped into the category has not been established.

Certain components of some electronic products contain materials that cannot be recycled or render them hazardous. Examples include lead, aluminum, zinc, chromium, and mercury. California law currently views nonfunctioning CRTs (cathode ray tubes) from televisions and monitors as hazardous.

Many electronic products can be reused, refurbished, or recycled. Unfortunately, electronic discards are one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. In addition, some researchers estimate that nearly 75 percent of old electronics are in storage, in part because people are uncertain of how to dispose of them. Combine this with increasing advances in technology and new products headed toward the market and it is no wonder that “e-waste” is a popular topic.

#### **The following vendors recycle e-waste:**

##### **ALLTECH COMPUTER RECYCLERS**

14311 Cerise Ave., Unit 108  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
(310) 978-2790  
*computers, printers, monitors*

##### **GOODWILL**

recorded information for drop-off locations  
(888) 4-GOODWILL  
*computers & printers; will also accept donations of household and business items for resale*

##### **GOODWILL COMPUTER CLEARANCE CENTER**

848 East Edna Pl.  
Covina, CA 91724  
(626) 915-4433  
*will accept working and non-working computers; can provide*

*pick-up of five or more computers; no limit to the number of computers accepted*

##### **GREEN DISK**

[www.greendisk.com](http://www.greendisk.com)  
(800) 305-DISK  
*shreds and recycles computer disks; call for nearest mailing location*

##### **HMR (USA), INC.**

19010 S. Vermont Ave.  
Gardena, CA 90248  
(310) 329-3458  
*computers, office equipment, electronic scrap, plastic film, & other film*

##### **HYRAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP**

9170 Las Tunas Dr., Suite B  
Temple City, CA 91780  
(626) 292-7834  
*computer and plastic scrap*

##### **L.A. SHARES**

3224 Riverside Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
(213) 485-1097  
*functioning computers*

##### **PUYAM CORP.**

45428 N. Trevor Ave., Suite A  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
(661) 948-5068  
*computers, printers, monitors*

##### **SALVATION ARMY**

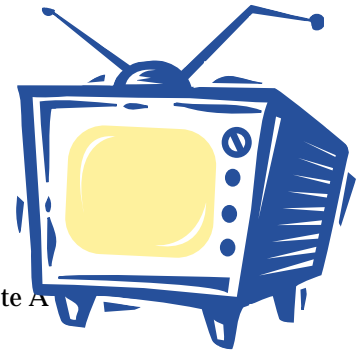
recorded information for drop-off locations  
(800) 95-TRUCK  
*will accept working computers; no minimum required for computer collection; will also accept donations of household and business items for resale*

##### **SANTA MONICA TRANSFER STATION**

2401 Delaware Ave.  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
(310) 458-2223  
*accepts broken electronics, automotive tires, construction debris, green waste, wood, and large pieces of scrap metal for recycling; call first for tipping rates and hours of operation*

##### **LACoMax**

[www.LACoMAX.com](http://www.LACoMAX.com)  
(626) 458-3580  
[jenguyen@dpw.co.la.ca.us](mailto:jenguyen@dpw.co.la.ca.us)  
*LACoMax is a free service provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, designed to help residents, businesses, and organizations in Los Angeles County find markets for their industrial by-products, surplus materials, and other would-be discards.*





# UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

**O**n Saturday, April 21, 2001, a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook. The event was a held to demonstrate improvements made to the park using more than 1,100 recycled waste tires. The project was a joint effort between Los Angeles County and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.



*Pictured are: (left to right) Rodney Cooper, recently retired Director of Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation; Sam Jones, Assistant Director of South County Community Services Agency; Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke; David Roberti, Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board; and Mike Mohajer, Assistant Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.*